



House of Representatives

General Assembly

File No. 492

February Session, 2004

Substitute House Bill No. 5604

House of Representatives, April 6, 2004

The Committee on Judiciary reported through REP. LAWLOR of the 99th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the House, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

AN ACT CONCERNING SHELTER FOR ANIMALS.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Subsection (a) of section 53-247 of the general statutes is
2 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective*
3 *October 1, 2004*):

4 (a) Any person who overdrives, drives when overloaded,
5 overworks, tortures, deprives of necessary sustenance, mutilates or
6 cruelly beats or kills or unjustifiably injures any animal, or who,
7 having impounded or confined any animal, fails to give such animal
8 proper care or neglects to cage or restrain any such animal from doing
9 injury to itself or to another animal or fails to supply any such animal
10 with wholesome air, food and water, or unjustifiably administers any
11 poisonous or noxious drug or substance to any domestic animal or
12 unjustifiably exposes any such drug or substance, with intent that the
13 same shall be taken by an animal, or causes it to be done, or, having
14 charge or custody of any animal, inflicts cruelty upon it or fails to

15 provide it with proper food, drink or protection from the weather or
16 abandons it or carries it or causes it to be carried in a cruel manner, or
17 fights with or baits, harasses or worries any animal for the purpose of
18 making it perform for amusement, diversion or exhibition, shall be
19 fined not more than one thousand dollars or imprisoned not more than
20 one year or both. For the purposes of this subsection, proper protection
21 from the weather shall be determined by weather conditions and
22 characteristics of the animal, and shall require housing or other shelter
23 with specific features if necessary; "weather conditions" include
24 climate, cold, heat, wind, precipitation, moisture and direct rays of the
25 sun; and "characteristics of the animal" include the species, breed, age,
26 size, weight, overall physical condition and health of the animal.

This act shall take effect as follows:	
Section 1	October 1, 2004

JUD *Joint Favorable Subst.*

The following fiscal impact statement and bill analysis are prepared for the benefit of members of the General Assembly, solely for the purpose of information, summarization, and explanation, and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either House thereof for any purpose:

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact: None

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation

The bill specifies the meaning of proper protection from the weather in the animal cruelty statute, and generally conforms statute to current practice. There is no anticipated fiscal impact.

OLR Bill Analysis

sHB 5604

AN ACT CONCERNING SHELTER FOR ANIMALS**SUMMARY:**

The animal cruelty law imposes fines of up to \$1,000 and prison sentences of up to one year, or both, on people who, among other things, fail to protect animals from the weather. This bill directs this finding to be based on the weather conditions and animal's characteristics, and, when necessary, requirements for housing or shelter with specific features. Under the bill, weather conditions include climate, cold, heat, wind, precipitation, moisture, and direct sun. Characteristics of the animal include its species, breed, age, size, weight, overall physical condition, and health.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2004

COMMITTEE ACTION

Judiciary Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 38 Nay 0